

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /134 W

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R 281400Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5183

INFO USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 6176

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST 27

1. SUMMARY. ATHENS NEWSPAPERS REGISTERED RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL TWENTY-FOUR HOUR PERIOD BY CONTINUING TO REPORT ON SOVIET PROPOSAL AND REPRINTING STORIES FROM FOREIGN PRESS INCLUDING NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR TASCA AND JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ON CLOSING NATO BASES IN GREECE. EDITORIALS CONCENTRATED ON GREEK RELATIONS WITH WEST AND ON PUNISHING JUNTA MEMBERS AND COLLABORATORS. END SUMMARY

2. HEADLINES IN MORNING PRESS DEALTH PRINCIPALLY WITH CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. "RUSSIAN MOVE ON BEHALF OF GREECE?" - (AKROPOLIS), "WITH GREECE'S INITIATIVE CYPRUS ISSUE WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE UN - U.S. REJECTS RUSSIAN PLAN" - (ELEFTHEROS COSMOS), "MR. TASCA DECLARES: 'I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY DEALINGS WITH IOANNIDES'" - (TO VIMA)

3. LEAD STORIES CONTINUED FOCUS ON CYPRUS CRISIS AND AFTERMATH WITH ALL NEWSPAPERS REPRINTING JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ASSERTION THAT GREECE WILL SHUTDOWN NATO BASES WITHIN YEAR. ALL PAPERS REPORTED GOG DECREE DISMISSING SEVENTEEN BRIGADIER GENERALS
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FROM ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY AND PROMOTIN OF ELEVEN OTHERS

TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL. PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT PM CARAMANLIS WOULD DELIVER "POLITICAL" SPEECH THESSALONIKI TRADE FAIR OPENING ON AUGUST 31.

AKROPOLIS REPORTED THAT TURKS THREATEN TO OCCUPY ALL CYPRUS IN EVENT OF GUERRILLA WARFARE. ELEFTEROS COSMOS COVERED MINISTER CULTURE AND SCIENCES TSATSOS' VISIT TO U.S., EMPHASIZING HIS VIEW THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE AND PRESS DISAGREE WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SUPPORT GREECE. AVGHI NOTED RECENT INTERVIEW OF FM MAVROS IN PARIS L'EXPRESS MADE CLEAR THAT GREECE'S RETURN TO NATO IS OUT OF QUESTION. AVGHI ALSO REPORTED ALLEGED MAKARIOS STATEMENT SUPPORTING SOVIET PROPOSAL AND HIS INTENTION TO RETURN TO CYPRUS AS SOON AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT. VRADYNI SUGGESTED MAKARIOS MAY VISIT ATHENS FOLLOWING HIS TOUR OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. SAME NEWSPAPER ALSO URGED THAT GOG PREVENT THOSE MINISTERS WHO SERVED APRIL 21 REGIME FROM DEPARTING GREECE.

4. AFTERNOON PRESS LAUNCHED INTO POLITICAL ARENA REPORTING NEW POLITICAL PARTIES BEGINNING TO TAKE FORM. APOYEVMATINI WROTE THAT MINISTER OF FINANCE PESMAZOGLOU AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS GEORGE MANGAKIS WILL ESTABLISH CENTER-LEFTIST POLITICAL PARTY. TA NEA FRONTPAGE PHOTO OF AMBASSADOR TASCA WITH PAPADOPOULOS WITH CAPTION "DURING TIME OF THEIR COOPERATION" AND REPRINTED NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH TASCA WITH HEADLINE "WE ARE NOT SO CRAZY AS TO CHOOSE D. IOANNIDES." ATHINAIKI RAN BANNER HEADLINE "AMERICANS GATHER THEIR THINGS." IN SEPARATE STORY SAME PAPER QUOTED SOVIET AMBASSADOR YESHOV AFTER MEETING WITH FM MAVROS AS SAYING "ALL WILL GO WELL," AND THAT HE IS ABSOLUTELY SATISFIED." ATHINAIKI TOOK RARE POLITICAL SWIPE AT PM CARAMANLIS BY PROTESTING PICTURES OF PREMIER SEEN EVERYWHERE AND GOG'S EMPLOYMENT OF ERE ADHERENTS.

5. EDITORIALS CONTINUED TO REGISTER CONCERN OVER CYPRUS DEVELOPMENTS. ESTIA APPLAUDED GOG ACCEPTANCE OF SOVIET PLAN AND ATTACHED WESTERN POWERS FOR IMMORAL, UNJUST AND HYPOCRITICAL STAND TOWARD GREECE. IN SEPARATE COMMENTARY ESTIA WROTE GOG SHOULD IMPLEMENT REPORTED DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN NATO BASES UNLESS U.S. POLICY IN CYPRUS CHANGES RADICALLY. VRADYNI'S V. VASSILIOU URGED PRESIDENT FORD TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTEMPT TO REPAIR CYPRUS SITUATION SINCE "NOTHING CAN BREAK TIES BETWEEN GREECE AND GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE." AKROPOLIS EDITORIALIZED THAT INTERNATIONALIZATION OF CYPRUS ISSUE IS ONLY WAY LEFT TO GREECE AND CYPRUS. TA NEA DEMANDED PURGE OF ALL PROJUNTA PERSONALITIES FROM MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND JUSTICE. OTHER PAPERS JOINED TA NEA IN URGING PUNISHMENT OF JUNTA MEMBERS SINGLING OUT IOANNIDES IN PARTICULAR. TASCA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS06176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740238-0470
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740813/aaaaakkz.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST 27
TAGS: PINT, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005